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Testimony in Support of
SB876: AN ACT CONCERNING THE NONDISCLOSURE OF THE RESIDENTIAL
ADDRESS OF SWORN MEMBERS OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT UNIT
Government Administration and Election Committee
February 13, 2015

Good Afternoon, Chairmen Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila, Vice Chairmen Senator Gerratana, Representative Alexander, Ranking Member Senator McLaughlin, Representative Smith, and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. I am here today to testify in support of Senate Bill 876.

I would like to thank the Committee for expanding Statute 1-217 to include non-disclosure of residential addresses of sworn members of a law enforcement unit as defined in 7-294a. The protection of the men and women in law enforcement who protect us on a daily basis is of utmost importance especially in light of recent events in other parts of the country.

I would also like to draw your attention to a bill I proposed #5327 An Act Concerning the Nondisclosure of the Residential Addresses of Police Officers on Municipal Land Records.

Although Statute 1-217 allows a public agency to redact the home address of various individuals, this law applies only to lists generated pursuant to a request under the Freedom of Information Act of the Connecticut Statutes.

However this statute fails to recognize the fact that information sought can be obtained from records published online by various departments of a city, such as the Assessor's Office, the Tax Office or the Registrar of Voters Office. My proposed bill seeks to utilize an alias name for those in law enforcement, in the records of the city departments previously mentioned. Allowing this protection as an exemption to public disclosure (as opposed to the information being held as "confidential") would mean that the agencies would not be prohibited from disclosing the

documents in all circumstances (for example, when there a question regarding an employee's residence, when residency in the town is required for employment.)

The category of exemptions should be limited as to not impose a financial burden on our municipalities while simultaneously protecting the women and men of law enforcement who put their lives on the line every day to protect us.